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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/812,146	HOFFMANN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Daniel W. Howell	3722	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12-14-06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.


THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>12-5-06</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |


Daniel W. Howell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3722

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1. The examiner will provide the definitions used to determine the scopes of the claims.

The rear portion of body 32a has tothing 48a (not threads), and the rear portion of body 32a and fixing sleeve 36a has a form locking connection, such that rotation of fixing sleeve 36a relative to the body 32a is not possible (see page 13, lines 2-7). As control ring 16a is rotated in the locking direction, arresting means 12a are pushed down into tothing 48a, such that axial movement between the body and arresting means 12a is not possible due to this "form locking connection 14a" (page 13, lines 14-17). The shape or "form" of the tothing and arresting means cause the locking to happen. With respect to the present claims, a "form locking connection" is defined to be a connection where the shapes of interengaging complementary parts prevent their relative movement.

Clamping sleeve 54a and fixing sleeve 36a (which contains the arresting means 12a) have threads 50a, 52a, which permit them to move axially relative to each other as the clamping sleeve is rotated relative to the body 32a. This axial movement of the clamping sleeve 54a is directed axially against guiding sleeve 42a in order to force the jaws against the shank of the drill bit. This force provided from the clamping sleeve to the guiding sleeve is the "clamping support force" (see page 14, lines 13-15, and page 18, lines 13-16). With respect to the present claims, the "clamping support force" is defined to be the axial force needed to close the jaws on a tool shank.

Putting these definitions together for analyzing claims 1 and 12, it is seen that the arresting means produces a form locking connection, and this connection will serve to receive that clamping support force.

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2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the embodiments of figures 2-3 and 6-7 of German 10109490 are representative of the closest art of record. There is no suggestion to provide the German '490 reference with the form locking connection as set forth in claims 1 and 12.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Claims 1-14 are allowed.

4. Any inquiry concerning the content of this communication from the examiner should be directed to Daniel Howell, whose telephone number is 571-272-4478. The examiner's office hours are typically about 10 am until 6:30 pm, Monday through Friday. The examiner's supervisor, Monica Carter, may be reached at 571-272-4475.

In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, Group 3720 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office actions directly into the Group at FAX number to 571-273-8300. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a USPTO deposit account. Please identify Examiner Daniel Howell of Art Unit 3722 at the top of your cover sheet.



Daniel W. Howell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3722